(b) Nag missile is a third generation Anti Tank Guided Missile with "fire and forget" and "top attack" capabilities. Nag missile has a range of 4 Km. and it can engage moving and static targets.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Flight trials are planned to test the Nag missile at a minimum/maximum range.

Erection of war memorial

284. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that plans to erect a war memorial in memory of Indian soldiers, who have laid down their lives in various wars since Independence, is lying in cold storage because of lack of a consensus on a suitable site;

(b) whether any time-frame has been set to erect the war memorial; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) A concept plan for National War Memorial has been presented before the regulatory bodies namely, Delhi Urban Arts Commission, the Central Vista Committee and the Heritage Conservation Committee. Ministry of Urban Development has been approached for assignment of suitable land around 'Chhatri' in the India Gate Complex which has not been obtained.

(b) and (c) A time frame can be set only after the land is obtained for the purpose.

Reservation in Armed Forces based on population

285. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has a rule that only a fixed percentage of the population can join the Army from a State and that it is the only Central service in which reservation is based on population; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Army Officers are recruited on the basis of merit and recruitment is equally open to every citizen of the country, without discrimination on the basis of population of a State.

Vacancies for recruitment to the Army in respect of Personnel Below Officers' Rank (PBOR) are distributed on the basis of Recruitable Male Population (RMP) of States/UTs. RMP is reckoned as 10% of the total eligible male population of the State/UT based on Census of India Report 2001.

Diversion of ration items meant for Indian Army to black Market

286. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 11 FIRs were registered by J and K Police and two Courts of Inquiry have been ordered to investigate into the incidents of sale of ration meant for soldiers posted in Siachen in open market;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the final outcome;

(c) whether such incidents of unauthorised sale/diversion of other ration items had been noticed earlier too, in various units, during the last decade;

(d) if so, the details and action taken; and

(e) whether such misconducts tarnish the fair name of Indian Army?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) First Information Reports have been lodged by Jammu and Kashmir Police in various Police Stations relating to the incidents involving sale of rations. These FIRs are vague and do not contain specific particulars of any Army personnel except one, which contains the name of an Army Unit. Two Courts of Inquiry were ordered by Army authorities during July, 2007 to investigate the matter. On the basis of the findings of the Courts of Inquiry, action has been initiated against 15 Army personnel. No such incident has come to notice earlier. However, adequate preventive measures have been initiated to keep a check on such cases in future. These incidents are only aberrations and the fair name of Army is built upon its many positive contributions and service to the nation.

Upgradation of IMD stations for accurate weather forecasting

287. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is in the process of upgrading infrastructure of India Meteorological Department (IMD) stations in the National Capital to make weather forecasting as much as 95 per cent accurate and faster;

(b) if so, what are all the total financial allocation made by Government for this purpose;

(c) whether Government also propose to upgrade other IMD stations in other metros and coastal areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (e) The Government has taken up a project, Metropolitan Weather Information and Forecast System for National Capital Region (NCR) of Delhi, to provide location/event specific real time weather information and to provide location/event specific weather forecasts in short (48 hrs. in advance) and now cast range (3-6 hrs. in advance). Establishment of dense observation network for the NCR region of Delhi, ingestion of data into a high resolution meson-scale model and auto-now cast system is expected to greatly enhance the quality of weather monitoring and forewarning over the NCR region.